

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCI-06 PM-07 L-03 H-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

ACDA-19 MC-02 RSR-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 /111 W

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R 271609Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2150
NASA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TSPA, XG
SUBJECT: ISSUES AT EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL
MEETING 7/31/73.

REF: A. BRUSSELS 4292; B. COPENHAGEN 1722

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH INSISTANCE ON APPROVAL OF L3S IS THE
ISSUE INFLUENCING ALL DECISIONS AT SUBJECT CONFERENCE.
END SUMMARY.

2. LOUET, FONOFF REP IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL AND
SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT (MINISTER CHARBONNEL) TOLD SCICON
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TODAY THAT FRANCE EXPECTS TO SUPPORT POST-APOLLO COOPERATION,

PROVIDING THAT IT HAS SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE L3S FROM THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. OTHERWISE, HE SAID, AS FRANCE HAS WARNED ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS, IT WILL VOTE AGAINST THE NASA/ESRO INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT, THEREBY BLOCKING AUTHORIZATION FOR ESRO TO SIGN THE AGENCY AGREEMENT. LOUET SAID THAT IF A SPACE PROGRAM INCLUDING L3S, SATELLITES, AND THE SORTIE MODULE DEVELOPS, THEN NATURALLY THE FRENCH EXPECT THAT A EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY WILL EVOLVE. HOWEVER, IF THERE IS NO L3S, THERE WILL BE NO PROGRAM AND NO ESA.

3. NASA EUROPEAN REP VISITED ROME JULY 25. MORNING MEETING WITH TRELLA HAD TO BE DELAYED UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON BECAUSE OF MEETING OF ITALIAN SCIENCE MINISTER BUCALOSSI WITH ESC PRESIDENT HANIN. LATTER PROPOSED TO GOI THAT THEY SHOULD INCREASE THEIR CURRENT TOKEN CONTRIBUTION TO L3S SOMETHING APPROACHING 5 TO 6 PERCENT. THIS CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY AN EQUAL REDUCTION OF FUNDS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR SPACELAB PROGRAM. TRELLA EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT GOI WOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE FIRM POSITION BY JULY 31 PRIMARILY BECAUSE RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS HAVE ONLY RECENTLY ASSUMED THEIR POSITIONS.

4. YESTERDAY ESRO OFFICIALS DISCUSSED PARIS MEETINGS HELD JULY 25 AND 26 WITH NASA REP. DISCUSSION CONFIRMED RESULTS OF JULY 25 MEETING AS REPORTED IN REF A. JULY 26 WORKING GROUP MEETING TO REVIEW LANGUAGE OF GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY LEVEL AGREEMENTS WAS MOST PRODUCTIVE AND AGREEMENT ON BOTH DOCUMENTS WAS REACHED AT THIS LEVEL. AT THIS MEETING FRENCH WORKING LEVEL REPS DISPLAYED POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE.

5. COMMENT: BELIEVE FRENCH WILL TAKE A STRONG POSITION AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCES AND PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE. THE MECHANISM BY WHICH THEY WOULD BLOCK ESRO FROM SIGNING THE NASA/ESRO AGREEMENT MAY BE CHALLENGED ON A LEGAL BASIS. IRWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS20549
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973077/aaaaafcr.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 A. BRUSSELS 4292; B. COPENHAGEN 1, 722
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <23-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISSUES AT EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL MEETING 7/31/73.
TAGS: TSPA, XG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005